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COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1948.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT FOR THE YEAR 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee
of the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1948 on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Isle of Wight.

The report follows much the lines of previous years and no attempt has been made to differentiate between the first six months and the six months since the coming into force of the National Health Service Act. Where the new legislation has added new administrative duties to the Health Department, such as the Ambulance Service, new subject matter is included.

Although when the 5th of July dawned no great change became apparent in the work of my department, it would be wrong to state that no administrative difficulties were experienced. Indeed for the first few weeks, the Health Department seemed to become a clearing house for Health Executive Council and Regional Hospital Board inquiries.

The Act was successfully 'launched' on the appointed day but the 'fitting out' period has not altogether been free from difficulties. Many problems still remain to be solved but as far as the Local Health Authority Services are concerned, the ship is rapidly entering smooth waters.

The new services provided under the Act are popular, some staggeringly so, and the demands made for example on the Ambulance and Home Help Services have caused some embarrassment and estimates of expenditure were made to look foolish.

New committees have had to be formed but the personnel of these has soon settled down and my best thanks are due to you all for your patience during the early months when, as your Medical Officer, I often found myself floundering.

County Council Health Services have much to be proud of in the past but the new Act has given a great chance to local health authorities, not only to improve the existing services but also, by using their new powers to the maximum extent, further to improve the state of the public health.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,
Newport, I.W.
June, 1949.

Throughout this Report the figures in brackets refer to those of the previous year.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF ALL DISTRICTS—1948.

Area.	Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Whole County.	England & Wales : Rate per 1000
No. of live births	256	275	360	319	167	106	1483	
Males	138	142	180	157	87	59	763	
Females	118	133	180	162	80	47	720	
No. of still births	5	11	10	8	3	3	40	
Males	3	6	9	4	1	2	25	
Females	2	5	1	4	2	1	15	
Live Birth-rate per 1000 population	14.9	16.8	17.7	15.9	12.7	16.1	15.8	17.9
Still Birth-rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	19.2	38.5	27.0	24.5	17.6	27.5	26.3	
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	4	9	14	5	4	40	
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births... ..	15.6	14.5	25.0	43.9	29.9	37.7	27.0	34.0
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child birth— ...								
(a) From Sepsis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
(b) From other causes	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Total No. of Deaths	229	211	207	307	161	94	1209	
Males	99	92	112	130	80	42	555	
Females	130	119	95	177	81	52	654	
Crude death-rate per 1000 population	13.4	12.9	10.2	15.3	12.2	14.3	12.9	10.8
Population — Registrar General's Estimate	17140	16350	20300	20090	13170	6590	93640	

BIRTHS.

The number of live births was 1,483 (297 fewer than in 1947), giving a birth rate of 15.8 per 1,000 living (19.8). One hundred and one of these were illegitimate as against 106, 141 and 148 for the three previous years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Forty infants died in the first year of life giving an infant mortality rate of 27.0 (38.2). The rate for England and Wales was 34. Among illegitimate infants the rate was 59.4 per 1,000 illegitimate births. The figure of 27 is only the second lowest on record for the Island for in 1939 the figure was 26.3 per cent.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered and corrected for inward and outward transfers was 1,209, 555 males and 654 females. Of these 71.3 per cent (69.3) were over 65 years of age.

The following figures show the number of deaths from certain conditions with the corresponding figures for the previous year:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	30	(46)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4	(7)
Cancer	...	...	...	186	(202)
Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	...	...	...	472	(502)
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	(2)
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	(1)

TABLE II.

Sanitary Authority.	Population at 1931 Census.	Registrar General's Estimate of Population for:			
		1945	1946	1947	1948
I.W. Rural District	16538	14180	15440	15840	17140
Cowes U.D.	16022	14700	15420	15720	16350
Newport M.B.	18864	18170	19810	20310	20300
Ryde M.B.	18472	17590	19080	19530	20090
Sandown-Shanklin U.D.	11615	10560	12020	12600	13170
Ventnor U.D.	6943	5150	5610	5750	6590
Whole County	88454	80350	87380	89750	93640

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**(a) Medical.** Whole-time.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer	William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant County Medical Officers (including maternity and child welfare, and school medical services) and Medical Officers of Health to various districts	John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Deputy County Medical Officer). John Cameron, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 15-2-48).
Assistant County Medical Officers (mainly maternity and child welfare, and school medical services)	Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Charlotte Forsyth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Dental Surgeon (Schools and maternity and child welfare services)	Frederick George Harvey, B.D.S.
Assistant Dental Surgeons	Gerald Simons, L.D.S. Herbert John Nicholls, L.D.S. Morris, Mrs., L.D.S. (Part-time).

(b) Others. Whole-time.

Dental Nurse	Miss F. Willis, S.R.N.
Dental Attendants	Mrs. D. Dunn. Miss M. Ayress.
Physiotherapist	Miss P. Twort, M.C.S.F., M.E., L.E.T.
Speech Therapist	Miss P. W. Glover, L.C.S.T. (Resigned Oct. 1948).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 187.

Registration of Nursing Homes.

At the beginning of the year, twenty-nine Homes were registered under the Public Health Act, and during the year six applications for registration were received. Seven registrations were withdrawn during the year, because the owners wished to close down. In addition one home was transferred from one address to another. At the end of the year there were twenty-eight Nursing Homes registered, eleven for maternity cases only, eight for maternity and other patients, and nine for non-maternity cases. One hundred and sixty three inspections were made during the year.

Public Education in Health.

Thirty-two lectures on health matters were given by the medical officers to various organisations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

TABLE III.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLES FROM EACH AREA SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC ANALYST FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

<i>District.</i>	<i>New Milk.</i>	<i>Other Samples.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Bembridge ...	—	1	1	One milk deficient in fat ; no proceedings taken.
Brading ...	2	1	3	
Cowes ...	14	4	18	
Chale ...	3	1	4	
Freshwater ...	2	4	6	
Godshill ...	1	—	1	
Gurnard ...	—	—	—	
Newchurch ...	1	—	1	One milk added water. Fined £5 plus £1 1s. 0d. costs.
Newport ...	23	20	43	
Niton ...	1	3	4	Two salad dressing not labelled as required. Cautioned.
Ryde ...	18	15	33	
Sandown ...	4	6	10	One tomato flavoured ketchup in active state of fermentation. Case referred to Local Authority.
Shalfleet ...	1	—	1	
Shanklin ...	4	7	11	
Shorwell ...	—	1	1	
Totland ...	2	2	4	
Ventnor ...	5	4	9	
Whitwell ...	1	—	1	
Yarmouth ...	3	4	7	
	85	73	158	

TABLE IV.—SHOWING DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

<i>Sample Number.</i>	<i>Name of Sample.</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration, etc.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
51/48	Tomato Flavoured Ketchup	In an active state of fermentation and as such was unsaleable.	Case referred to the Local Authority of the District in which the sample was taken.
A 112	Milk	6.6 per cent deficient in fat	Deficiency mainly due to bad milking—no offence.
A 114	Milk (Appeal to Cow)	9.0 per cent deficient in fat.	Farmer advised to seek the co-operation of the County Agricultural Executive Committee.
A 162	Milk	3.0 per cent added water, although figure for solids not fat was above the legal minimum.	A further sample was taken, which has been reported on as "Genuine".
A 169	Salad Dressing	Not labelled as required by the Food Standards Order, 1945.	Retailer cautioned.
A 170	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
A 179	Milk	7.6 per cent added water.	Proceedings instituted. Defendants pleaded Guilty, fined £5 and to pay £1 1s. 0d. costs.

TABLE V.—SHOWING WHAT FOODS AND DRUGS WERE SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Milk	84 (91)	81 (83)	3 (6)
Milk (Appeal to Cow)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Baking Powder	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Bicarbonate of Soda	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Butter	9 (5)	9 (5)	— (—)
Camphorated Oil	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Castor Oil	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Celery Salt	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Cocoa	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Coffee, ground	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Coffee, dried extract of	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Coffee and Chicory Essence	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Curry Powder	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Epsom Salts	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Flour, Self-raising	3 (3)	3 (3)	— (—)
Gelatine	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Ginger, ground	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Gregory's Powder	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Gripe Water	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Isinglass	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Jam, Strawberry	3 (3)	3 (3)	— (—)
Margarine	6 (3)	6 (3)	— (—)
Marmalade	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Mustard	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Nutmegs, ground	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Oatmeal	3 (—)	3 (—)	— (—)
Olive Oil	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Potato, dehydrated	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Paste, Meat	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Prune Puree	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Salad Dressing	2 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Sausage Meat, Beef	2 (—)	2 (—)	— (—)
Sausage Meat, Pork	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Sodium Salicylate	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Tomato Flavoured Ketchup	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Vinegar, Malt	3 (3)	3 (3)	— (—)
	158 (137)	149 (131)	7 (6)

TABLE VI.—SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF MILK SAMPLES WITH RESPECT TO THE PERCENTAGE FIGURES OF FAT AND SOLIDS NOT FAT IN MILK.

Fat.

<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>
5 and over	8
4.8—5.0	—
4.6—4.8	5
4.4—4.6	6
4.2—4.4	9
4.0—4.2	14
3.8—4.0	12
3.6—3.8	9
3.4—3.6	6
3.2—3.4	5
3.0—3.2	9
2.8—3.0	1
2.6—2.8	1
Arithmetic Mean—4.06 per cent.	

Solids not Fat.

<i>Percentage.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>
9.3 and over	2
9.1—9.3	11
8.9—9.1	43
8.7—8.9	18
8.5—8.7	7
8.3—8.5	1
8.1—8.3	1
7.9—8.1	1
Below 7.9	1
Arithmetic Mean—8.92 per cent.	

In view of the very small percentage of samples of milk which did not reach the required standard, the Committee decided during the year to purchase a Gerber apparatus so that samples of milk could be tested for fat content by the sampling officer. The use of this apparatus will greatly decrease the number of milk samples sent to the Public Analyst.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-46.

The holders of licences as Tuberculin Tested producers numbered 57 at the end of 1947 and 72 at the end of 1948; the Accredited producers numbered 51 and 52. Six producers transferred from the Accredited Roll to the Tuberculin Tested Roll during the year and there were sixteen fresh additions. Eleven fresh licences were granted to Accredited producers. Five Tuberculin Tested and four Accredited producers surrendered their licences during the year, one Tuberculin Tested licence was suspended on account of a contravention of the conditions of the licence, and the licence held by the Mental Hospital Farm was cancelled on the 5th July by the Minister of Health.

The herds of fifty of the seventy-two Tuberculin Tested producers are on the Register of Attested Herds kept by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

To ensure that these milks reach the required standard of bacteriological cleanliness, samples were examined at the rate of one a month in the case of Tuberculin Tested producers and every other month in the case of Accredited producers. If a milk was found unsatisfactory, additional follow-up samples were taken.

The number of samples examined during the year was 1,238 (1,057), 910 Tuberculin Tested and 328 Accredited. Of these, 45 Tuberculin Tested and 12 Accredited failed to pass the tests.

Miss Beamond, Milk Production Officer of the Isle of Wight Agricultural Executive Committee, was informed of failures as they occurred and she visited the farms concerned and advised the producers on their milking methods.

If successive samples continued to fail, the conditions under which the licence is issued are not being complied with and the registration is withdrawn. Towards the end of the year under review, the records of all producers were scrutinised by the appropriate Sub-Committee and those who had had several failures (although not successive failures) were warned by letter and in some cases licences were not renewed until a prescribed number of clean samples were obtained.

The total number of animals officially tested in Tuberculin Tested and Attested Herds during 1948 was 5,068, of which 99 reacted to the tuberculin test and were removed from the herds. The number of animals clinically examined in Accredited herds was 1,634.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 32 animals were slaughtered during 1948; 6 from Tuberculin Tested and Attested Herds, 2 from Accredited Herds and 24 from Non-Designated Herds.

A total of 264 samples of milk were taken from herds whose milk is not Tuberculin Tested and is retailed raw without heat treatment. These were examined for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli at the Ministry of Health's Public Health Laboratory, Winchester. Seven of these milks were found to be positive and arrangements were at once made with the producers to have the milk heat treated at the plant of the Isle of Wight Creameries, Ltd. Meanwhile, Mr. C. S. Randle, Divisional Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, took appropriate action to detect and deal with the offending animals.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

TABLE VII.

1.	Number of Registered Herds in the County ...	...	...	...	...	...	520
	Number of samples taken for T.B., year 1948	...	...	...	...	...	264
	Number positive	...	...	...	...	...	7
	Number of affected farms	...	...	...	...	...	7
	Number of visits to affected farms	...	...	...	...	...	12
	Number of cows slaughtered under T.B. Order as result of above	...	...	...	...	...	7
2.	Number of visits to farms for all purposes by Vets.	...	...	...	...	...	780
	Number of animals examined	...	...	...	...	...	17809
	Number of animals slaughtered (including those in 1)	...	...	...	...	...	32
	Number of cows affected with mastitis or other pathological conditions	...	...	...	...	...	26

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS.

3.	Establishments at which milk is bottled	...	...	...	...	<i>T.T.</i> 8	<i>Accredited.</i> 8
	Establishments at which milk was not bottled	...	...	...	...	64	44
	Totals	...	...	...	...	<hr/>72	<hr/> 52
4.	Total number of samples taken.						

TABLE VIII.

Designation.	No. of Samples Collected.	Type of Examination.						Examination for Tubercle Bacilli.		
		Methylene Blue.		B. Coli.		Phosphatase Test.		No. of Samples Exd.	Biological.	
		Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.		Pos.	Neg.
Tuberculin Tested ...	910	872	38	363	9	—	—	—	—	—
Accredited ...	328	318	10	133	3	—	—	24	2	22
Pasteurised ...	72	72	—	—	—	71	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	1310	1262	48	496	12	71	1	24*	2	22

* These are included in Table VII.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE
(CIVILIANS ONLY).

TABLE IX.—NOTIFICATIONS MADE TO MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

	Isle of Wight Rural District	Cowes.	Newport.	Ryde.	Sandown-Shanklin.	Ventnor.	Totals.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	24	15	44	6	7	6	102
Diphtheria	—	1	3	—	—	—	4 (20)
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	1	8	5	—	2	26
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	1	1	2	—	6
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	—	1	2	1	7 (45)
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	1	5	1	3	2	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	16	44	49	272	12	3	396
Whooping Cough ...	80	68	83	81	4	17	333
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	11	5	22	10	5	64
Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	6	6	4	—	4	28
Totals	159	148	204	394	40	40	985

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified by medical practitioners was less than in the previous year. Measles and whooping cough accounted for more than two thirds of the total. Scarlet fever showed an increase over the previous year but there was a considerable drop in the number of cases of diphtheria (four as against 20).

Of the diphtheria cases, one was an adult and three were children. Of the three children attacked, two had been fully immunised. There were no deaths.

The Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital is still a member of the staff of the Local Health Authority and so no difficulty has been experienced by the district medical officers of health in obtaining admission of suitable infectious cases to the hospital. Unless the medical officer of health can have access to beds in infectious diseases hospitals and can observe cases in these beds, much of his usefulness to general practitioners in helping to diagnose these disorders will disappear. It is hoped therefore that Regional Hospital Boards will continue to give facilities to medical officers of health (who are responsible for prevention of infectious disease) so as to sustain their interest.

TABLE X.—CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE ISLAND DURING 1948, ACCORDING TO AGE GROUP.

Age.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Poliomyelitis.	Measles	Whooping Cough.
Under 1	—	—	—	17	33
1 and under 2	—	1	2	29	40
2 and under 3	—	3	—	34	43
3 and under 4	1	6	—	49	35
4 and under 5	—	5	—	55	42
5 and under 10	2	67	2	181	116
10 and under 15	—	12	3	21	10
15 and under 20	—	5	—	5	4
20 and under 35	1	2	—	3	5
35 and under 45	—	—	—	2	2
45 and under 65	—	1	—	—	2
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1
Total ...	4	102	7	396	333

TABLE XI.—NOTIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Disease.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	93	58	21	47	125	116	109	66	41	102
Diphtheria ...	14	13	4	1	9	—	6	3	20	4
Enteric Fever	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	34	—	—
Pneumonia	21	38	39	18	29	20	7	23	24	26
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	22	12	20	24	15	12	13	20	15	6
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	1	20	13	3	2	2	3	2	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis ...	6	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	46	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Encephalitis Post Vaccinal ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	20	9	9	11	8	8	12	17	15	17
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	5	5	4	6	2	2	1	2	1
* Measles ...	5*	121	726	77	426	975	231	566	605	396
* Whooping Cough ...	1*	7	492	56	19	316	22	153	102	333
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Undulant Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	Relapse	—	1	—	—
Brucella Abortus Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

* Notifiable as from 23-10-39.

***VENEREAL DISEASES.**

TABLE XII.—RELATING TO ALL PERSONS WHO WERE TREATED AT THE TREATMENT CENTRE AT NEWPORT DURING THE YEAR ENDED THE 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

	<i>Syphilis.</i>		<i>Soft Chancre.</i>		<i>Gonorrhoea.</i>		<i>Conditions other than Venereal.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. No. of cases who, on the 1st Jan., 1948, were under treatment or observation for	17	11	—	—	4	7	8	—	29	18
2. Old patients readmitted during year	—	4	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	14
3. Number dealt with during the year in the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from	10	32	—	—	13	37	25	76	48	145
4. Number of cases transferred from other areas ...	3	9	—	—	9	—	—	—	12	9
Total	30	56	—	—	26	54	33	76	89	186
5. Number of cases discharged from the out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and final tests of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	3	19	—	—	16	41	27	76	46	136
6. Number of cases which ceased to attend the out-patient Clinic before completion of treatment for ...	5	9	—	—	3	6	—	—	8	15
7. Number of cases under treatment or observation which died	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases which ceased to attend after completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure of	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
9. Number of cases transferred to other treatment Centres or to Institutions or to care of Private Practitioners	4	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	9	—
10. Number of cases who, on the 31st December, 1948, were under treatment or observation for	16	28	—	—	2	7	6	—	24	35
Total—Items 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10	30	56	—	—	26	54	33	76	89	186
11. Out-patient attendances— (a) For individual attention by the Medical Officer	361	299	—	—	167	340	60	405	588	1044
(b) For intermediate treatment, e.g., irrigation, dressings, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Total number of persons admitted for treatment during the year	8	9	—	—	1	1	1	—	10	10
13. Aggregate number of “In-patient days” of treatment given to persons who were suffering from	64	110	—	—	40	10	10	—	114	120
14. Number of cases treated with penicillin	8	33	—	—	10	20	<i>Other Diseases</i> 9 | 3		27	56

	Microscopical		Cultural Gonorrhoea.	Serum		Cerebro Spinal fluid.	Others for diagnosis of Venereal Disease.
	Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.		Syphilis.	Gonorrhoea.		
15. Examination of pathological material :							
(a) Specimens which were examined at, and by the Medical Officer of, the Treatment Centre	5	46	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Specimens from persons attending at the Treatment Centre which were sent for examination to an approved laboratory	2	122	—	306	15	2	—

* Although the Council was only responsible for the treatment of Venereal Diseases until July 4th, for convenience the table for the whole year 1948 is given.

CANCER.

For the period January 1st to July 4th, inclusive, 52 patients received in-patient treatment at Southampton Centre. Of these 25 were re-admissions. The total number of in-patient days was 539 and at the out-patient department 44 patients made 84 attendances.

In the County Hospital, Ryde, there were on the 1st January, 5 patients suffering or suspected to be suffering from cancer and 38 were admitted during the period January—July 4th inclusive. Thirty-one were discharged, 9 died and 3 remained in the hospital on the 5th July.

Cancer caused 186 deaths in 1948 as against 202 and 186 in the two previous years.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

Although the main portion of the work of the public health laboratory is now done in the laboratories of the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight Area Pathological Board, for convenience a certain number of examinations are still carried out in the County Laboratory. For example, specimens from the V.D. clinics are immediately examined by the medical officers in charge.

There were 181 (634) specimens examined during the year as follows:— Sputum for tubercle bacilli 134, 43 positive 91 negative; other specimens for tubercle bacilli 8, 1 positive 7 negative; smears for gonococci 33, 11 positive 22 negative; and other examinations 7. In addition, as stated in a previous section, 1,238 milk samples were examined.

X-RAY TREATMENT, ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

Apart from the figures giving details of X-Ray examinations taken in connection with the Tuberculosis Scheme and included in the tuberculosis section of this report, there were in addition 1,188 X-Ray examinations made. Details of these are as follows:—

Private patients (referred by own doctors)	927
Mothers and children under the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme	55
School children under Education Committee's scheme	88
Orthopaedic cases (patients over school age)	4
Public Assistance patients	18
County Mental Hospital patients	17
Emigrants	79
Total	1188

N.B.—These figures refer to the period January—July 4th inclusive only.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The changes in the Children Act Register during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1948, are as follows:—

On Register, 1st January, 1948	11
Added during the year 1948	23
	—
	34
Removed during 1948	16
To care of relations	13
Legally adopted	1
Over 9 years of age	—
Left Island	—
To Public Assistance Institution, Forest House, Newport	1
Boarded out temporarily by County Council	1
	—
On Register, 31st December, 1948	18

During the year, 85 visits of inspection were made to these children, 39 by the medical officers, 46 by the health visitors.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Births.

During the first half of the year the percentage of babies born at home was 50.8 and since the beginning of July, the percentage dropped to 45.8 per cent. During the latter half of the year however the actual number of births (including stillbirths) also fell from 828 to 673 and the actual number born at home from 421 to 308.

The following table shows the number of births divided into the first half and second half of the year and it is interesting to note that since the introduction of the new National Health Act, not only has the percentage of children born at home fallen but also the percentage born in nursing homes has risen.

TABLE XIII.—DETAILS OF BIRTHS NOTIFIED TO THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER DURING 1948.

	<i>January—June, 1948.</i>			<i>July—December, 1948.</i>			<i>Year 1948.</i>		
	<i>Live-Births.</i>	<i>Still-Births.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Live-Births.</i>	<i>Still-Births.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Live-Births.</i>	<i>Still-Births.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
MALE	394	12	406	358	8	366	752	20	772
FEMALE	412	10	422	300	7	307	712	17	729
TOTAL	806	22	828	658	15	673	*1464	*37	*1501
Born at home ...	411	10	421	301	7	308	712	17	729
Born in Nursing Home	287	5	292	267	5	272	554	10	564
Born in Hospital ...	108	7	115	90	3	93	198	10	208
TOTAL	806	22	828	658	15	673	*1464	*37	*1501

*N.B.—It will be noted that there is a difference of 19 more live births and 3 more still births recorded by the Registrar General and entered in Table I of this report. The reason for this apparent discrepancy is that in Table XIII all the births notified in the actual year are entered whereas, in the Registrar General's figures, only those births registered during the year and corrected for inward and outward transfers are entered.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Before July 5th, the ante-natal clinics supervised by the Council's medical officers fairly well covered the Island so that on the appointed day it was not necessary to increase the number held. After the appointed day, the fact that all expectant mothers were able, if they so wished, to book medical practitioners to look after them during pregnancy, tended to decrease the popularity of the Local Health Authority's clinics. However, after a meeting of the Local Medical Committee, at which the County Medical Officer attended and explained the advantages which the Authority's clinics could furnish in the routine examinations and in providing teaching in mothercraft, etc., an arrangement was come to for the closest co-operation between the clinics and the medical practitioners. At the end of the year, these were working well and the attendances at our ante-natal clinics began to increase.

Put shortly, the co-operative arrangements made were as follows :—

- (1) At the Local Health Authority's clinics, each woman would be informed of her rights to book a doctor of her choice to look after her during labour.
- (2) The medical practitioners, in their turn, agreed to inform women attending them of the facilities offered by the Authority's ante-natal clinics.
- (3) A complete interchange of records was promised.
- (4) Women referred by general practitioners to the clinics would be referred back as required and also at the 36th week of pregnancy.

At the ante-natal clinics, sterilised maternity outfits were made available to all expectant mothers intending to have their babies at home. Outfits were also made available on the same terms to expectant mothers on demand even if they did not attend the clinics.

The number of these outfits issued from July 5th until December 31st was 154.

Post-Natal Clinics.

Except for a clinic once monthly in Newport, it has not been found necessary to continue the post-natal clinics. So few women avail themselves of the facilities afforded that it was found possible to deal with these few either by home visits or by special appointment at the ante-natal clinics.

Table XIV gives a picture of the work of the ante-natal clinics since the 5th July.

TABLE XIV.

<i>No. of Clinic Sessions held.</i>	<i>No. of Clinics attended by Medical Officer.</i>	<i>No. of New Cases Attending.</i>	<i>Total Attendances at Clinics.</i>	<i>Home Visits paid by Medical Officers.</i>
113	77	243	1,3) 640 (5	221

Infant Welfare.

The infant welfare clinics have continued to be well attended and at the end of the year, 24 centres were attended by medical officers. In 1948, 12,877 attendances were made; 8,017 of these were paid by infants under one year and 4,860 by children between one and five years.

Dental Treatment.

The Senior County Dentist has very kindly furnished a report on the dental services provided under this section of the Act for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children.

Care of Premature or Underweight Infants.

The number of infants born in the Island under 5½lbs. weight was 83 (89) which is 5.6 per cent of all the live births (5.0). Thirty-nine of them were born at home, 21 in hospital and 23 in Nursing Homes. Fourteen of the 83 died within four weeks of birth. Of the 39 born at home, 6 died and 33 were alive at the end of four weeks. Four of these children were removed to hospital and 1 of them died within four weeks. Of the 35 nursed entirely at home, 5 died. Of the 21 born in hospital, 3 died within 24 hours of birth and 18 were alive and doing well at the end of four weeks. Of the 23 born in Nursing Homes, 3 died within 24 hours, 2 died within a month and 18 were alive at the end of a month.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

The Orthopaedic Clinics at the County Hall, Newport, have continued with sessions at monthly intervals (with the exception of August). During the financial year 87 attendances were made by children under school age.

Two of 3 children under school age who were receiving treatment in Alton Hospital at the end of 1947 for congenital dislocation of the hip were discharged, 1 in February and 1 in March, 1948, after a stay of nine and eight months respectively. The other child mentioned in last year's report as still under treatment at the end of the year on account of congenital dislocation of the right hip continued to receive treatment in hospital throughout the year. Six children (4 girls and 2 boys) were admitted to Alton Hospital during the year.

The defects from which the children suffered were :—

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Club Foot	1	2
Congenital dislocation of hip	—	1
Cystic swelling of nose	—	1
Cleft Lip	1	—

Four of these children, 3 girls and 1 boy, were still under treatment at the end of the year. The other 2 children were discharged after seventeen and eighteen days' treatment.

Visual Defects.

Twenty-five children under school age attended the eye clinics of whom 14 were fresh cases and 11 were re-examinations of children seen previously. Nine children had spectacles prescribed, 1 had spectacles renewed, in 2 the glasses previously supplied were still suitable and 13 did not require spectacles. One child was referred for Orthoptic treatment.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY DENTAL SURGEON.

Previous to 5th July, 1948, no systematic dental examinations were given to expectant or nursing mothers attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. This applied also to the pre-school child. Any patient attending for treatment had usually been recommended by the welfare doctor or nurse. At the commencement of the National Health Service Act however, it became obligatory to introduce a scheme for the inspection of all expectant mothers attending the ante-natal clinics and the nursing mothers and children under five years who were in attendance at the Welfare Centres.

It was, therefore, arranged for a dentist to attend periodically the Welfare Centres to give the mothers and young children present a complete dental examination followed by the offer of treatment for those in need of it. This arrangement was impracticable so far as the ante-natal clinics were concerned, for it was found that the number of expectant mothers attending these clinics per session was not sufficient to warrant the presence of a dentist. This difficulty was overcome by an arrangement whereby the names of all expectant mothers were submitted to the dentist who then arranged a special appointment for them.

Owing to the shortage of staff the new scheme could not be introduced immediately at the commencement of the new Act, namely July 5th, and it was not until October, after the appointment of a part-time dental officer to undertake this work, that the scheme was initiated. Hence, the statistics given below relate in the main to the work done during the last three months of the year.

The measures taken have already proved very popular and the mothers have shown great appreciation both for the facilities available for themselves and especially for the young children. This service can be definitely classified as a preventative and not so much as a remedial one. It is surprising how much the mothers of today are concerned with the state of their children's teeth and how anxious they are to gain knowledge how to prevent the onset of dental decay. The dissemination of such facts by the dentist should be of immense help in the battle against dental caries and it will be interesting to note in future years if there is any decrease in the incidence of decay in the children when they enter the schools at five years of age.

The total number of expectant and nursing mothers examined was 110 (44 expectant, 66 nursing mothers) and of these, 75 were referred for treatment. Only 1 patient definitely refused treatment, 3 others attended their own private dentist, the remainder undergoing treatment at the clinic.

The number of children examined totalled 265 and 58 were found to require treatment. The incidence of decay would appear to be very low but it must be remembered that the ages of these children ranged from 1—5 years and most of the dental defects were found in the age group 3—5 years.

A summary of the work done will be found below. No special comment can be made until the scheme has been working for a longer time, but it is hoped to submit a more detailed report next year.

TABLE XV.

				<i>No. of Patients examined.</i>		<i>No. found to require treatment.</i>		<i>No. actually treated.</i>	
Expectant Mothers ...	...	...	...	44		37		36	
Nursing Mothers ...	...	...	...	66		38		35	
Pre-School Children	...	...	...	265		58		58	
Number of attendances for treatment				...	...	...	...	...	303
<i>Treatment :</i>									
(a) Fillings.		Permanent teeth		...	...	...	...	...	68
		Temporary teeth		...	...	...	...	...	57
(b) Extractions.		Permanent teeth		...	...	...	...	...	119
		Temporary teeth		...	...	...	...	...	66
(c) Other operations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	92
(d) Dentures supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dentures repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

During the year 79 midwives notified their intention to practise, of whom 58 practised throughout the year and 21 for part of the year. There were, at the end of the year, 41 in the regular employ of the County Council, 3 in St. Mary's Hospital, 2 in the County Hospital, 1 in the Frank James' Hospital, 13 in nursing homes and 8 in independent practice.

One midwife notified her intention to practice as a maternity nurse during the year.

In supervising their work, 172 routine and 10 special visits of enquiry were made.

According to the returns submitted by the Council's midwives, the independent midwives and midwives in hospitals, the number of confinements attended during the year numbered 1,511. In approximately 791 of these a doctor was also engaged so that the confinements attended as midwifery cases numbered 720. In addition, 101 miscarriages were attended by midwives, 83 as maternity nurses assisting doctors and 18 as midwifery cases.

Administration of Analgesics.

At the end of the year, 31 midwives were qualified to administer Analgesics in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board. During the period 5th July to the 31st December, analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice in 37 cases.

Caesarian Section.

Forty-six of the births on the Island were by section which is 3.0 per cent of the total live and still births. Twenty-six took place at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, 6 at the Shanklin Cottage Hospital, 5 at the East Cowes Cottage Hospital and 9 in Nursing Homes.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year, 2 in the Sandown-Shanklin Urban District, 1 each in Newport and Ryde Boroughs, 1 in the Cowes Urban District and 1 in the Rural District. Three of the cases occurred at home, 2 in hospital and 1 in a nursing home. Three of the cases were admitted to the Fairlee Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Maternal Deaths.

Three deaths were classed by the Registrar General as maternal deaths. One was due to post partum haemorrhage after the birth of an 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. baby, 1 to post operative shock after caesarian section and one to pulmonary embolism after miscarriage.

Domiciliary Midwifery Service.

It was not found possible during the year fully to implement the Authority's desire for a whole-time midwifery service in Newport, Ryde, Cowes and Sandown-Shanklin. Shortage of staff, changes in personnel, a greatly increased demand for domiciliary nursing and a decreased demand for domiciliary midwives were the reasons for the failure to implement the scheme. In Ryde, Newport, and Cowes it has almost been possible throughout the six months but not in Sandown-Shanklin.

Since July 5th the Local Health Authority's midwives have attended 300 domiciliary live births, 164 as midwifery cases and 136 as maternity cases.

The total number of medical aid forms received from midwives was *187. An analysis of these shows that 169 were received in respect of the mother, 17 in respect of the child and only 1 in respect of the mother and child. Of the 169 aid forms received in respect of the mother, 40 were for complications of pregnancy, 10 for miscarriage or threatened miscarriage, 108 for causes arising out of labour and 11 for causes arising after labour. Of the 108 aid forms received for causes during labour, 41 were on account of obstructed or delayed labour, 5 on account of abnormal presentations, 11 on account of haemorrhage, and 46 on account of ruptured perineum and 5 for other causes. The other causes include shock and collapse, hysteria, epilepsy, macerated foetus, and abnormality of the birth canal.

The midwives also notified 10 stillbirths, 2 deaths of child, 17 artificial feeding, 6 performing last office, and 6 liability to be a source of infection.

Maternity Cases at St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst.

The number of applications for beds at the maternity block at St. Mary's Hospital has again markedly exceeded the number of places. During the period 1st January—5th July, the County Council paid for 20 cases in private nursing homes because of insufficient beds at St. Mary's Hospital.

Patients are admitted to St. Mary's Hospital when necessary for ante-natal treatment as well as for their confinements. The total number of maternity admissions during the period ending 5th July, 1948, was 84, of which 12 were Public Assistance cases, 70 were admitted through the Public Health Committee and 2 admissions were wives of Servicemen and were admitted as Service cases. Three of the admissions were for ante-natal treatment only. There were 82 births in the hospital during the period of which 3 were stillbirths and 79 live births. Two infants died within ten days of birth. The average duration of stay in hospital of all the patients (confinement cases and ante-natal) was 18.2 days (13.8.)

At the request of the Hospital Management Committee, applications for admission to St. Mary's Hospital on social grounds are investigated by the County Medical Officer and suitable cases recommended for admission.

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE.

Shortage of staff has made it impossible to run a whole-time Health Visiting Service, nor has it been possible owing to the increased demands for domiciliary nursing services to pay all the visits necessary to ensure an adequate service.

Since the 5th July the general duty nurses have paid 7,549 visits to children under five, and attended the necessary clinics.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The demand on the general duty nurses for domiciliary nursing has increased since July 5th and had the influenza epidemic spread from the Continent, as it might well have done, the home nursing service would have been heavily taxed. Arrangements were made in advance for assisting the service if necessary and the British Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Brigade promised fully to co-operate.

Since July 5th the general duty nurses acting as home nurses have nursed 1,985 cases paying 20,494 visits.

*This number applies to the whole year.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

It is not possible fully to estimate the number of vaccinations and immunisations against Diphtheria carried out. As no decision has yet been arrived at as to the fees to be paid to general practitioners for these services, notifications are not being received except from the Authority's own staff. No doubt records are being kept by the doctors but these are certainly not being received by the Health Department.

Table XVI gives the position as far as is known for the period 5th July—31st December, 1948.

TABLE XVI.

	Vaccinations.		Diphtheria Immunisations.		
	Children under 5	Age 5 +	Children Immunised.		No. of children who received re-inforcing doses.
			Under 5	Over 5	
By General Practitioners	175	34	144	17	—
By Authority's Staff ...	32	2	432	106	505

The percentage of children immunised at the end of the year in the various sanitary districts is shown below. It shows a slight improvement over the previous year but it is still unsatisfactory that the best the Island can show for children under five years immunised is 55 per cent in Sandown-Shanklin. How far this is a true picture it is not possible to say for the reasons mentioned in the first paragraph.

	Under 5 years.	5—14 years.
Cowes	36.9	68.0
Newport	51.1	89.9
Ryde	29.1	60.9
Sandown-Shanklin	55.0	68.2
Ventnor	33.9	51.5
Isle of Wight Rural District	46.5	69.7

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

From July 5th until December 31st, the service met all calls but it was very severely tested. The ambulances taken over had seen a good deal of service and only the most careful nursing kept them on the road. The demand for transport to the mainland surprised everyone and it was only by the co-operation of the Ambulance Services of Portsmouth and Southampton that we were able to meet all demands. Whenever possible stretcher cases were sent over by boat and met by ambulances on the mainland. This could only be done of course in suitable cases, and it is gratifying to note that only one complaint was received that the method was unsatisfactory, and that complaint although perfectly justifiable, would probably never have been made but for the very inclement weather, or if a different route to the mainland had been chosen. Unfortunately, ambulances can not go down to Ryde Pier Head so cases have to be transferred from the ambulances at the esplanade on to the trains and then carried from the train to the boat. This means a certain amount of exposure to the elements.

There is no doubt that the fact of us being on an Island makes the Ambulance Service of the Isle of Wight a difficult service to administer.

It cannot be too strongly impressed on everyone wishing to use the service for transport to the mainland that unless we have adequate notice in advance, transport on a particular day cannot be guaranteed. This is especially true during August.

Many letters of appreciation have been received of the excellence of the service and drivers and attendants are to be congratulated that not one single complaint has been received of them.

The Hospital Car Service did an excellent job during the year and the best thanks of the Local Health Authority are due to those who use their cars for this purpose and also to the honorary organisers for their very able administration.

It is necessary to add a word of caution about this service. The demands on it are increasing by leaps and bounds and unless it is used only when necessary a time will come when the heaviness of the demand will cause a breakdown. All concerned must realise that transport by hospital car service is only for those who cannot travel by public means of transport. It is not meant to be used because it is quicker and more convenient than buses or trains.

TABLE XVII.

		<i>No. of Vehicles at 31st December, 1948.</i>	<i>Total No. of Calls during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948.</i>	<i>Total No. of patients carried during the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948.</i>	<i>No. of Accident and other Emergency Calls included in col. 3 during the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948.</i>	<i>Total Mileage during the period 5th July, 1948, to 31st December, 1948.</i>
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Directly Provided Service	Ambulances ...	6	1025	1181	148	20444½
	Cars	—	—	—	—	—
Agency Service ...	Ambulances ...	2	361	363	101	7857
	Cars	—	—	—	—	—
Supplementary Services	Ambulances ...	—	—	—	—	—
	Cars	—	45*	125*	3*	2527*

* These figures refer only to the period from November 23rd to December 31st, 1948.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER CARE.

(A) Tuberculosis.

TABLE XVIII.—SHOWING THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES AND THE DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory System.		Other Forms.		Respiratory System.		Other Forms.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
5— ...	2	1	4	8	—	1	—	—
10— ...	1	—	2	8	—	—	—	—
15— ...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
20— ...	3	11	—	1	—	1	1	—
25— ...	11	7	1	1	8	3	1	*1
35— ...	9	6	—	—	3	2	—	—
45— ...	8	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
55— ...	4	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	4	3	—	—	3	4	1	—
Totals 1948 ...	43	34	9	21	18	12	3	1
Totals 1947 ...	77	59	18	13	30	16	2	5

* Notified pulmonary case died from non-pulmonary disease.

These figures include a few patients who have been re-instated on the register.

Table XVIII shows all the new cases and includes primary notifications 65, transfers from other areas 27, information gained from death returns, including inward transfers 11, and cases replaced on the register because they had returned to the Island 4.

The primary notifications numbering 65 (101 and 76 for the two preceding years) and the 34 deaths show a considerable decrease compared with the previous year.

TABLE XIX.—SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS SHOWING THAT THERE WERE 675 CASES ON THE REGISTER ON THE 1st JANUARY and 683 ON THE 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

Note.—This table does not include the deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis and therefore not on the registers; hence the apparent discrepancy as regards new cases and deaths when tables XVIII and XIX are compared.

Number of Patients.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
On Register at end of 1947 ...	304	213	78	80	382	293
Added during 1948 (new cases) ...	23	18	8	16	31	34
Cases removed from other areas ...	13	10	—	4	13	14
Old cases left, re-admitted ...	2	—	—	1	2	1
Old case 'Lost sight of' re-admitted ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Old 'Cured' re-admitted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Old 'Mistaken diagnosis' re-admitted ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gross Total	343	241	86	101	429	342
Removed to other areas during 1948 ...	15	13	3	3	18	16
Removed—'Lost sight of' ...	1	—	—	2	1	2
Removed—Diagnosis unconfirmed ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Removed from Register as being 'Cured'	6	3	8	8	14	11
Died during 1948 ...	15	*7	1	—	16	7
Died from other diseases ...	—	2	—	—	—	2
Totals to be removed from Register	37	25	12	14	49	39
Number on Register at the end of 1948	306	216	74	87	380	303

* One notified pulmonary female died from non-pulmonary disease.

When the Regional Hospital Board took over responsibility for the treatment of tuberculosis, the tuberculosis dispensary register handed over contained the names of 553 patients, 450 of whom were adults and 103 were children under 15 years of age. Until July 5th, 2,145 attendances, including X-ray attendances, had been made. Up to this date too, maintenance and discretionary allowances amounting to £299 10s. 10d. had been paid to 15 patients.

During the same period, the number of new persons examined was 341 of whom 11 were transferred from other areas. Of the 341 examined, of whom 66 were contacts, 49 were found to be suffering from tuberculosis. Of these 35 were pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary and the total number was composed of 21 men, 15 women, 7 boys and 6 girls.

The number of X-Ray examinations made under the tuberculosis scheme from January—June was 1,209 : 1,063 of these were for diagnosis or as a guide to treatment and 246 were of contacts.

Forty-seven patients were in residence in the Council's Sanatorium when it was handed over on July 5th to the Regional Hospital Board.

TABLE XX.—SHOWING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AT VARIOUS SANATORIA AND HOSPITALS DURING JANUARY TO JULY 4th, 1948.

Sanatorium or Hospital.	Resident at beginning of year.	Admissions during Jan.—July 4th, 1948.	Discharges during Jan.—July 4th, 1948. (inc. Deaths).	Remaining on July 4th, 1948.
Longford Sanatorium	43	50	46	47
Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton ...	6	1	1	6
Royal National Hospital, Ventnor ...	1	8	8	1
Royal West Hants Hospital, Boscombe ...	—	2	2	—
St. Mary's Hospital, Parkhurst	1	—	—	1
Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde ...	1	1	2	—
Morland Hall, Alton	2	1	—	3
Haldene House Convalescent Hospital, Bexhill	—	1	—	1
Clinique Alexandre, Leysin, Switzerland	1	—	1	—
The London Hospital, Stepney	—	1	1	—
Great Ormond Street Hospital, London	1	—	1	—
Totals	56	65	62	59

The Local Health Authority has requested the Regional Hospital Board to allow its Chest Physician who was formerly the Council's Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, to give two sessions of his time weekly for prevention of and after care work in tuberculosis. Although no decision has yet been received, the closest liaison between the Chest Physician and the Health Department exists. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends all sessions of the tuberculosis clinics besides her domiciliary work, thus getting to know the cases from the onset and being in close touch with the Chest Physician.

During the year the Tuberculosis Health Visitor paid 890 domiciliary visits, reporting to the County Medical Officer on the environment, circumstances, etc., of each new patient.

Assistance in the form of milk grants was given to 16 patients and all cases recommended by the Chest Physician were provided with garden shelters.

The Authority own 14 of these shelters and at the end of the year 11 were out on loan.

(B) Other Illness.

As regards illness generally, it is hoped that the hospitals and the family doctors will co-operate with the Local Health Authority in seeing that any necessary after-care of patients discharged from Hospital will be provided. Certain difficulties have arisen as far as adults are concerned in the furnishing to the Health Department of particulars of patients discharged but these can, I am sure, be surmounted.

Two patients were admitted during the year to the Guy's Memorial Home at "Glenochie", Gurnard, for convalescent treatment.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

It is gratifying to report that this service has been more successful than anticipated. The service was able to enrol more helps than expected and although it has not been found possible to supply a help for every case asked all the urgent cases have been supplied.

The demand is still increasing ; more and more hours are being asked for, and helps are being supplied for longer periods than was ever anticipated. If the supply of helps remains as satisfactory as at the time of writing, then this will certainly be one of the most valuable services under the Act. The effect of the Island summer season on the Service is yet to be experienced and it may well be that the higher wages paid by the catering trades may attract some of the present helps into that trade for the summer months.

TABLE XXI.

The following table shows the position for each month since the 5th July.

<i>Month.</i>	<i>No. of Helps Enrolled.</i>	<i>No. of Cases Helped.</i>	<i>No. helped who paid in full.</i>	<i>No. helped who paid part.</i>	<i>No. helped free.</i>
July	8	25	19	2	4
August	10	37	31	1	5
September	13	49	41	2	6
October	23	70	53	9	8
November	28	78	51	14	13
December	32	78	52	18	8

Prior to the 5th July, financial assistance was granted towards the payment of home helps in eight confinement cases and in three sick cases domestic help was paid for.

MENTAL HEALTH.

A special committee was formed early in the year to administer this service. This Committee meets quarterly and consists of 17 members (10 County Councillors and 7 Co-opted Members), many of whom were members of the former Visiting Committee of the Mental Hospital and the Mental Deficiency Committee of the County Council.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for the day to day administration of the service and he has as his expert advisor a psychiatrist, a former medical superintendent of the Mental Hospital and Medical Officer to the Mental Deficiency Committee. In addition two of the assistant County Medical Officers have taken special courses in the ascertainment of mental deficiency.

The non-medical staff consists of a part-time psychiatric social worker for work among children. For social work among adults it is hoped that when a psychiatric social worker is appointed by the Hospital Management Committee that the services of that official will be made available for the Local Health Authority when desired, for supervision of patients on trial or on licence from mental hospitals and institutions for mental defectives. No duties under this section of the Act have, as yet, been delegated to voluntary associations nor have any arrangements been initiated for the training of mental health workers.

Section 28, National Health Service Act, 1946. Prevention, care and after-care.

No preventive work has yet been undertaken under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, nor has any request been received from the hospital for any after-care.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930.

The work under the Lunacy Act and the Mental Treatment Acts, is carried out by two duly authorised officers who also are petitioning officers for the discharge of duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

The average number of cases dealt with under the Lunacy Act is 45 per annum, while the average number of cases dealt with under the Mental Treatment Acts is 10. For the period commencing the 5th July to the 31st December, the actual number of cases dealt with is shown below :—

<i>Certified cases under the Lunacy Act.</i>	<i>Cases admitted under the Mental Treatment Acts.</i>	<i>Cases investigated without any action being taken.</i>
26	5	5

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938.

In regard to the work done during the year ending 31st December, 1948, relating to the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, I have to report the following :—

(a) Ascertainment.

Ascertainment of mental defectives has continued to be carried out, as a result of direct observations and of reports coming from schools, doctors, parents, guardians, etc. The number ascertained during the year under consideration is as follows :—

Reported by Local Education Authorities :					
Under Section 57 (3)	...	...	...	...	4
Under Section 57 (5)	...	...	...	...	3
Other cases reported and found "subject to be dealt with"	...	...	...	...	4
Total cases ascertained to be "subject to be dealt with"					11
Other cases reported who are not at present "subject to be dealt with", but for whom the Local Health Authority may subsequently become liable					5
Total number of cases reported during year					16
Number of cases awaiting vacancies in Institutions at the end of the year					13

(b) Guardianship and Supervision.

Cases under guardianship and supervision at the end of the year number as follows :—

Guardianship	...	...	...	31
Supervision	...	...	...	172

With regard to guardianship, the great difficulty is to secure suitable homes. The large majority of our cases are domiciled in the Isle of Wight. Use, however, is made of the Brighton Guardianship Society.

With regard to supervision, all cases are visited at quarterly intervals by the local District Nurses, in addition to the Medical Officer concerned with this work, who visits less frequently.

(c) Training.

It has been found more satisfactory to arrange one Occupation Centre in the geographical centre of the Island, rather than to continue running the Centres at Cowes and Shanklin as well as at Newport. The Occupation Centre, therefore, now exists at Braunstone House, Lugley Street, Newport, and is under the care of two ladies who have very full experience of the work, and who are carrying out that work very successfully.

Mid-day meals are provided by special arrangement with the School Meals Service, and free milk is also supplied. The expense of the transport and escort of pupils requiring such is, where necessary, defrayed out of County Funds. Cases which are not able, for any reason, to attend the Occupation Centre, regularly receive domiciliary training visits from the two Supervisors of the Centre.

The average number at present attending is 20, but this is now increasing owing to the improved facilities for attendance which have been made available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: PART III.**Provision of Accommodation.**

On the appointed day the Local Health Authority assumed responsibility for 78 persons (39 male and 39 female), inmates of the public assistance institution who did not require hospital treatment. As the majority of the cases in the institution required hospital treatment, the institution together with St. Mary's Hospital passed to the Minister of Health. It was considered desirable to remove as soon as possible to other accommodation the persons for whose care the Authority was responsible and for this purpose it was decided in principle in the first instance to purchase suitable properties for conversion.

TABLE XXII.

The following table shows the numbers in Part III Accommodation on the 5th July and the numbers at the end of the year.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 5-7-48	39	39	78
Number of Residents admitted direct between 5-7-48 to 31-12-48	16	8	24
Number of Residents transferred from St. Mary's Hospital to Part III Accommodation	—	2	2
	55	49	104
Number of patients transferred from Part III Accommodation to St. Mary's Hospital	2	1	3
Number of Residents discharged	6	7	13
Number of Residents who died	2	3	5
Total Number of Residents in Part III Accommodation on 31-12-48	45	38	83

WELFARE SERVICES.

During the year arrangements were made with the Isle of Wight Society for the Blind to carry on on behalf of the Authority the welfare services for the blind, and similarly for the deaf, the Hants and Isle of Wight Society for the Deaf and Dumb agreed to act as agents for the Authority.

TABLE XXIII.

The following table shows that there were 149 blind persons registered in the Island at the end of 1948 and the position as to their training and employment.

Age Period.	Training.	Male.		Female.	
		Employed.	Unemployable.	Employed.	Unemployable.
0— 1 	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 	—	—	—	—	—
5—16 	—	4 At School.	—	1 At School.	—
16—21 	—	—	1	—	—
21—40 	1*	4	—	1	1
40—50 	—	3	6	—	6
50—65 	—	12	9	4	8
65—70 	—	—	6	—	7
70 and over 	—	—	27	—	48
Total 	1	23	49	6	70

* Waiting suitable lodgings at Portsmouth.

At the end of the year, there were 33 deaf and dumb and deaf people on the register of the Hants and Isle of Wight Deaf and Dumb Association. In addition 20 people who were hard of hearing were known to the Association, having made application for help and advice.

